

FOREIGN POLICY AND DIPLOMACY

Unit Structure

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- 1.1 Definition and Objectives
- 1.2 Diplomacy: Role, Types and Changing Nature
- 1.3 Determinants of Foreign Policy with reference to India
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1.0 OBJECTIVE

- To understand the objective of the foreign policy and its features.
- To understand the dynamics of diplomacy in international relations.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The foreign policy of India reflects the historical and cultural character, national interests, and strategic priorities. Previously, India went through a remarkable transformation in terms of its economy, military, and political influence, it has enabled to pursue an assertive international policy that helps to safeguard its strategic interests and promote its global standing. India's foreign policy is pulled by a desire to maintain International peace with all neighbours and engage proactively in global affairs to shape the international agenda in favour of national interests.

India's foreign policy has undergone several transformations since its independence in 1947. Initially, India pursued a non-aligned foreign policy that sought to maintain equidistance from the Cold War superpowers, the US, and the Soviet. However, India's non-aligned policy gradually gave way to a more pro-Soviet stance, which was evident in its support for the Soviet Nation during the Afghan War in the 1980s. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, India embarked on a period of economic liberalization, which opened up new opportunities for its engagement with the global economy. In the 1990s, India's foreign policy shifted towards a more pragmatic approach, which sought to balance its relations with major powers and engage with the emerging economies of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. India also began to seek closer ties with the United States, which had emerged as the sole superpower after the end of the Cold War.

The 21st century has seen a further evolution in India's foreign policy, which is marked by greater assertiveness and strategic thinking. India has emerged as a major power in its own right, with a growing economy, a modernizing military, and a vibrant democracy. India's foreign policy is

driven by a desire to promote its national interests, protect its strategic assets, and enhance its global standing.

India's foreign policy in the 21st century is guided by four core objectives: promoting regional stability and security, enhancing economic engagement with the world, pursuing strategic partnerships with major powers, and promoting India's soft power and cultural influence.

Regional stability and security: India's foreign policy seeks to promote stability and security in its immediate neighbourhood, which is critical to its own security and development. India has long-standing disputes with its neighbours, such as Pakistan and China, which have often led to tensions and conflicts. India has sought to resolve these disputes through diplomatic means, but it has also demonstrated a willingness to use force when necessary. India has also played an active role in promoting regional integration and cooperation through initiatives such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

Economic engagement with the world: India's foreign policy seeks to enhance its economic engagement with the world by promoting trade, investment, and technology transfer. India has emerged as a major player in the world economy, with a growing middle class and a highly skilled workforce. India has pursued a policy of economic liberalization since the 1990s, which has opened up its economy to foreign investment and trade. India has also actively engaged in regional and global economic forums such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the G20. **Strategic partnerships with major powers:** India's foreign policy seeks to build strategic partnerships with bigger power like the United States, Japan, and Russia. India's relations with the United States have got better since the early 2000s, with the two countries engaging in regular high-level dialogues and signing a number of strategic agreements. India has also sought to deepen its relations with Japan, which shares India's concerns over China's rising assertiveness in the region. India has also maintained close ties.

In recent years, India's foreign policy has been shaped by a number of factors, including its growing economic and military power, its strategic location in South Asia, and its desire to play a greater role in global affairs. India has sought to deepen its ties with major powers such as the United States, Russia, China, and Japan, while also maintaining its traditional relationships with countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. India has also been a strong advocate for global issues such as climate change, terrorism, and nuclear disarmament. India has taken a leadership role in the International Solar Alliance, which aims to promote the use of solar energy worldwide, and has been actively engaged in global efforts to combat terrorism, including through its participation in the Global Counterterrorism Forum and the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre.

1.1 DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES

In International relations, the policy is framed to exchange the relations of sovereign nations with other state. The policy which shapes the framework of interest of nation, it brings peace, fortune, stability and political connections. Such policies are said to be foreign policy in international affairs. The foreign policies are executed by method of diplomacy, the diplomatic exchange of ideas and interest fulfils the process of communication in international relations. foreign policy and diplomacy are both important terms, it is essential to know the different between them. Governments cannot survive or thrive on their own without the help of other governments, especially in such a globalised environment. Because of this, nations approach other nations in the global setting in a variety of ways. These methods include diplomacy and foreign policy, to name only two. Foreign policy is an expression used to define a nation's attitude and the methods used in consolidating its nation's interest worldwide. In contrast, diplomacy describes how a nation approaches settling disputes with other nations in order to advance its interests.

The nature of State and diplomacy used to project its national interests are referred as the foreign policy. A national interest of State may vary from one state to another. However, a nation generally aims for independence and wealth. A nation has a variety of alternatives for advancing the national interest. Some of these strategies include military power, foreign aid, and diplomacy. In contrast to the present, powerful governments in the past utilised their armed might to advance their own national interests through the invasion and exploitation of other states. perhaps, in the new era, states must use other methods to advance their national interests because they are unable to use such drastic measures, one such method is diplomacy. Diplomacy is the process of negotiating and discussing with other nations to reach a position that is advantageous to both parties. However, this does not imply that all parties engage in equal diplomacy. There is always a chance that the powerful nation will prevail, even in diplomacy. However, it enables nations to influence the choices made by other nations through dialogue. Among the many activities that can be categorized as diplomacy are things like meeting with heads of state and delivering diplomatic messages on behalf of countries. These are just two examples. Ambassadors are the people who intercede such conciliatory correspondence. These individuals represent considerable authority in political procedures and words are their most amazing asset. Diplomacy, which can be unilateral, bilateral, or multilateral, is widely regarded as the primary alternative to the use of force on a global scale.

Objective of India's Foreign Policy:

Prior to establishing fundamental principles and formulating the policy, foreign policymakers establish specific objectives. A few of these targets are normal, however the level of accentuation generally shifts.

A former Foreign Secretary of India, Muchkund Dubey wrote:

The primary goal of a nation's foreign policy is to advance its national interests, guarantee security, preserve its sovereignty, foster growth and prosperity, and increase its stature, influence, and contribution to the nation's development. The establishment of a stable, fair, and balanced global order should be the overarching objective of a nation's foreign policy. The reason for harmony, demobilization and an even-handed worldwide request may on occasion be in struggle with public safety, sway and advancement. However, in the short term and long term, the first option might also be in the national interest.

India's foreign policy aims to achieve natural and universal objectives. The essential and superseding objective has forever been the upkeep and advancement of worldwide harmony and security. The standards and targets of our homegrown as well as international strategy are cherished in the Constitution. The national interest and the broader goals listed above are incorporated into India's foreign policy, which was primarily developed by Nehru. Congruity in international strategy is a recognition for development of a country and shrewdness of its administration. The goals of India's international strategy are so conventional and by and large acknowledged by individuals and gatherings with various philosophies that they are known as bases of a public approach.

The fundamental principles of Foreign Policy of India include:**1. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World is a Family):**

The theme and tagline for India's G20 presidency reflects One Earth, One Family, One Future. To put it another way, the entire community of the world is a part of a single, enormous, global family, and its members must coexist peacefully, cooperate productively, and trust one another for the sake of the benefit of all.

2. Panchsheel:

This is the Five Virtues which were initiated formally by India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru, and incorporated in the Agreement on Trade between the Tibet region of China and India signed on April 29, 1954 (which China did not follow) but, later on, it developed into the framework for global international relations. These are the Five Principles: Respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, ii. iii. Mutual non-aggression iv. mutual non-interference Peaceful coexistence, equality, and mutual benefit.

3. Shift (from Non-Alignment to multi-engagement):

India led the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) and followed a policy of non-alignment for several years after independence. However, India was typically viewed as more inclined toward the Soviet Union during the cold war between the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. India had a lot of room to manoeuvre in the strategic sphere after the

Soviet Union fell in 1991. India still adheres to the fundamental principles of non-alignment, but it believes in the multi-engagement policy; However, it does not advocate developing relationships with one group at the expense of another.

4. India opposes coercive intervention:

India is in favour of Democracy; be that as it may, India doesn't have confidence in that frame of mind of a philosophy. As a result, India has attempted to deal with the current government, whether it be a democracy, monarchy, or military dictatorship. India is of the opinion that the country's citizens should have the final say over who the country's leaders are and how their government is run. As an extension of the preceding principle, India opposes regime change or territorial integrity violations in a particular nation through the use of force or other means by a different nation or a group of nations. (Ex. Russia's intervention in Georgia, Ukraine, or Iraq, Libya, or Syria are examples.)

India, on the other hand, does not hesitate to support democracy wherever it is possible to do so; This is accomplished by actively assisting in capacity development and enhancing democratic institutions, albeit with the explicit consent of the relevant government. Ex.

5. Afghanistan Anti-Unilateral Sanctions/Military Actions:

India opposes unilateral sanctions/military actions unless they have been approved by the United Nations as a result of international consensus. This includes sanctions/military actions against one country or a group of countries. As a result, India only contributes to UN Peacekeeping Forces-affiliated military operations that help to maintain peace.

6. Constructive Engagement:

Over Aggression India supports a policy of constructive engagement over aggressive behaviour. It is of the opinion that confrontation and violent retaliation can only further exacerbate the situation. War is no arrangement; In every war, the disputing parties eventually meet for a negotiation, by which time a lot of damage has already been done. This applies specifically to Pakistan-the beginning of State-supported psychological oppression designated at India.

7. Help in Crisis:

India is now capable to help other nations when they are in problems, considerably when any country face crisis India keeping its issues aside extends the hand of help without any condition. In the Situation like flood or earthquake India have helped with whatever necessary relief needed to country like Turkey, Maldives and Nepal. Countries in economic crisis like Sri-Lanka and Nepal. In Covid-19, India came out to help many countries with PPE kits, Medicines and covid vaccines all that turn to be a Vaccine Diplomacy, which world have recognised and appreciate.

1.2 DIPLOMACY: ROLE, TYPES AND CHANGING NATURE

Diplomacy is the art and practice of conducting negotiations between representatives of different countries. It is a crucial tool in foreign policy, as it guides nations to deal with other nations in a peaceful and diplomatic manner. Diplomacy has its multiple forms, including bilateral negotiations, multilateral negotiations, and informal talks.

The main role of the diplomacy in foreign policy is to promote and protect a nation's interests, both domestically and internationally. Diplomats are responsible for communicating their country's position on various issues, negotiating agreements, and resolving disputes. Diplomacy also plays a role in shaping the perceptions and relationships between nations, which can have a significant impact on international relations.

There are many forms of diplomacy, each have its own role and purpose. The most common types of diplomacy include:

1. **Bilateral diplomacy:** This is the most traditional form of diplomacy, where two nations negotiate directly with each other. Bilateral diplomacy can take the form of formal talks between heads of state, or it can involve lower-level officials negotiating on specific issues.
2. **Multilateral diplomacy:** This type of diplomacy involves negotiations between multiple nations. Multilateral diplomacy is often used in international organizations such as the United Nations, where representatives from multiple countries come together to discuss and negotiate on issues of common interest.
3. **Track II diplomacy:** This type of diplomacy involves unofficial talks between non-governmental actors, such as academics, civil society organizations, and business leaders. Track II diplomacy can be used to build trust and facilitate communication between nations, particularly in situations where official channels are not effective.
4. **Public diplomacy:** This type of diplomacy involves communicating a nation's values, culture, and policies to foreign audiences. Public diplomacy can take the form of cultural exchanges, educational programs, and media outreach.

The nature of diplomacy has changed significantly over time, particularly with the advent of new technologies and the changing global landscape. In the past, diplomacy was primarily conducted through formal channels, such as diplomatic missions and official negotiations. However, with the rise of social media and other communication technologies, diplomacy has become more informal and accessible.

India's diplomacy has undergone a significant transformation in recent years, reflecting the country's growing stature on the global stage. The changing nature of Indian diplomacy can be attributed to a variety of

factors, including shifts in the global geopolitical landscape, India's economic growth and increasing regional influence, and changes in the country's foreign policy priorities.

In the past, diplomacy was primarily conducted behind closed doors, with little input from the public. However, with the rise of social media and other forms of communication, public opinion has become a key factor in shaping diplomatic outcomes. Governments must now take into account the views and opinions of their citizens when formulating foreign policy.

One of the key drivers of India's changing diplomacy is the country's growing economic clout. India is now the world's fifth-largest economy and has emerged as a major player in global trade and investment. This has enabled India to leverage its economic power to pursue its strategic objectives and expand its influence in the region and beyond.

Another important factor is India's changing foreign policy priorities. In recent years, India has sought to deepen its engagement with key partners around the world, including the United States, Japan, Australia, and Israel. This has been driven by a desire to build strategic partnerships that can help India achieve its foreign policy objectives, including enhancing its security, promoting economic growth, and expanding its regional influence.

India has likewise tried to assume a more dynamic part in provincial and worldwide administration. The nation has been pushing for changes in worldwide foundations like the Unified Countries and the World Exchange Association, and has been participating in territorial discussions like the Relationship of Southeast Asian Countries (ASEAN) and the South Asian Relationship for Provincial Collaboration (SAARC).

Diplomacy plays a critical role in foreign policy, allowing nations to negotiate and communicate with each other in a peaceful and diplomatic manner. There are several types of diplomacy, each with its own unique role and purpose, including bilateral diplomacy, multilateral diplomacy, track II diplomacy, and public diplomacy. The changing nature of diplomacy, driven by new technologies and global trends, has led to the emergence of new actors in the diplomatic arena and has increased the importance of public opinion in shaping diplomatic outcomes.

1.3 DETERMINANTS OF FOREIGN POLICY WITH REFERENCE TO INDIA

Foreign policy refers to a government's strategy in dealing with other countries and international organizations. India's foreign policy has evolved over time and is influenced by various factors, including historical ties, security concerns, economic interests, and cultural and ideological considerations.

One of the key determinants of India's foreign policy is its historical ties with other countries. India has longstanding relationships with countries such as Russia, the United States, and the United Kingdom that have

influenced its foreign policy decisions. For example, India's close relationship with Russia during the Cold War era had a significant impact on its alignment with the Soviet Union in international affairs. Similarly, India's colonial past has shaped its relationships with former colonial powers such as the UK.

Security concerns are also critical determinants of India's foreign policy. India has a complex security environment due to its geopolitical location and its relationships with neighbouring countries. India's relations with China and Pakistan, for instance, have been shaped by security concerns, including border disputes and cross-border terrorism. India's foreign policy has also been influenced by its strategic partnerships with countries such as the US and Japan, which help it counterbalance China's growing influence in the region.

Economic interests are another important factor in India's foreign policy. India is a rapidly growing economy and has been seeking to increase its global economic influence. Its foreign policy decisions are therefore influenced by economic considerations such as trade, investment, and access to resources. India's "Look East" policy, for example, aims to strengthen economic ties with Southeast Asia and East Asia.

Cultural and ideological considerations also play a role in India's foreign policy. India's cultural and religious ties with countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka have influenced its foreign policy decisions in the region. Similarly, India's non-alignment policy during the Cold War was influenced by its anti-colonial and anti-imperialist ideology.

In recent years, India's foreign policy has been shaped by its efforts to become a global power. India has been seeking to increase its influence in multilateral forums such as the UN and has been expanding its diplomatic outreach to countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. India's foreign policy has also been influenced by its desire to play a greater role in global governance and to promote its vision of a multipolar world order.

1.4 SUMMARY

India's foreign policy has undergone several transformations since its independence in 1947. Initially, India pursued a non-aligned foreign policy that sought to maintain equidistance from the Cold War superpowers, the United States, and the Soviet Union.

India's foreign policy is characterized by a commitment to promoting regional and global stability, promoting economic development, and pursuing strategic partnerships with key countries around the world.

The primary objective of nation is to protect national interest, security, economy and peace. With sole principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World is One Family), Non-Intervention, no aggression, help in crisis and International Peace.

The role of diplomacy in foreign policy is to promote and protect a nation's interests, both domestically and internationally. Diplomats are responsible for communicating their country's position on various issues, negotiating agreements, and resolving disputes.

India's foreign policy is shaped by a complex set of factors, including historical ties, security concerns, economic interests, and cultural and ideological considerations. As India seeks to expand its global influence, its foreign policy will continue to evolve in response to changing geopolitical and economic realities.

1.5 QUESTIONS

1. Write the Objective of foreign Policy
2. Explain Diplomacy and discuss the changing nature of Diplomacy
3. What is the basic principle of India's foreign Policy
4. Discuss the determinants of India's Foreign policy
5. Write an essay on: Diplomacy

READING SUGGESTIONS

- Challenges and Strategy: Rethinking India's foreign Policy, Rajiv Sikri
- Foreign Policy of India, V N Khanna
- Choices: Inside the Making of India's Foreign Policy, Shivshankar Menon
- India's Foreign Policy: An Overview, Harsh Pant

INDIA AND THE MAJOR POWERS

Unit Structure

- 2.0 Objective
- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 U.S.A.
- 2.3 Russia
- 2.4 China
- 2.5 Summary
- 2.6 Questions

2.0 OBJECTIVE

- To understand the relations between India and Major powers in world.
- To learn the concept of bilateral relations in foreign policy.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

International Politics is about struggle for power. The power that creates the perception of strong nation and balance the politics in world, precisely known as balance of power. To understand the concept of power in international politics we should revisit the elements of power in 21st century. It is important for a state to possess the elements of power which are

- (i) **Geographical position**, the position of state on world map, its access to other nations and ways of connecting the trade routes is one of the important concepts in power.
- (ii) **The stable Economy**, Economic power is essential for the state's ability to control economic resources, i.e natural resources, industry and technology. State exercise economic power is through foreign aid and investment. States can provide financial assistance or invest in other countries' economies to support their development or gain influence. In some cases, they may use aid and investment to promote their own political or economic interests.
- (iii) **Défense**: The military preparedness and assets are important element of power; strong military create a deterrence to other power against coercive attack. The military technology safeguards the interest of nation in conflict times.
- (iv) **Human Resource**: the strong resource of human is vital aspect in the power, when this resource is utilizing well it creates a strong perception of power for the nations. The workforce in industry,

defence, service, and leadership built a good ecosystem for nation's power.

Therefore, the major powers in world have these elements which are essential for stable power. In last three decades after adoption of LPG reforms, India is emerging as a major power of a future multipolar world. India have become an important state in terms of Strong military power, Stable economy, elite in technology, good human resource and naturally having a strategic geographical positioning in Asia. Hence, India will have to maintain the diplomatic and strategic relations with all the major powers in the world. The countries like USA, RUSSIA and China are major power in multipolar world. India have strategically achieved the place on table with these major powers. It is important to understand the role of India's foreign policy and diplomacy that all major power wants India to be in their interest. However, in this chapter we are going to review India's relations with the major powers in the world.

2.2 U.S.A. (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

The United States of America, commonly known as the USA, is a federal republic located in North America. It is the third-largest country in the world by both land area and population. The country has 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, a federal district that serves as the nation's capital.

The United States is known for its diverse population and culture, and is often referred to as a melting pot of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The country has a highly developed economy and is the world's largest economy by nominal GDP. The country is also a global leader in science, technology, and innovation, and is home to some of the world's top universities, research institutions, and tech companies. The United States has a federal system of government, with power divided between the federal government and the state governments. The country has a long history of democracy and individual freedoms, enshrined in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. The country is also a founding member of the United Nations, NATO, and other international organizations, and plays a significant role in global politics and diplomacy.

The diplomatic relations between India and the United States started soon after India gained independence from British colonial rule in 1947. The United States was one of the first countries to recognize India as a sovereign nation, and the two countries established formal diplomatic relations in 1949. However, in the early years of India's independence, the country followed a non-aligned foreign policy and maintained a distance from both the United States and the Soviet Union. Therefore, initially there was vacuum of diplomatic relations as both United States of America and Soviet Union because both these nations were busy in power struggle without have a direct war, hence the period is known as Cold war era. However, ties with the United States have weathered Cold War era distrust and estrangement over India's nuclear program. Relations have

warmed in recent years and cooperation has strengthened across a range of economic and political areas.

In 1998, India conducted nuclear tests, which led to international sanctions, including by the United States. However, after 9/11, the United States was looking for allies in its fight against terrorism and saw India as a potential partner in this regard. In 2005, the United States and India signed a landmark civil nuclear cooperation agreement, which was seen as a significant step forward in their bilateral relationship. Under the Obama administration, the United States began to view India as a strategic partner, and the two countries signed several agreements on defence, trade, and climate change. Under the Trump administration, the United States put more pressure on India to address trade imbalances, but there was also a deepening of strategic ties, particularly in the realm of defence. The Biden administration has continued to deepen the strategic partnership with India, while also expressing concerns over human rights issues in India, particularly in the context of the treatment of minorities and restrictions on freedom of expression.

The bilateral relations between India and USA have developed into a “global strategic partnership”, putting emphasis on values of shared democracy, and increasing convergence of interests on bilateral, regional and global issues. The basics placed by India Government through its foreign policy on development and good governance has brought opportunity to reinvigorate bilateral ties subjectively. The Diplomatic relations between India and USA speed up after 2014, when PM Narendra Modi started new phase in India’s Foreign Policy. The new phase of vibrant foreign policy and the engagement of India in international diplomacy, highlights the necessity for global powers to get on board with India on aspects like Trade and Economy, defence, energy security and cultural affairs.

The two countries have taken several steps to deepen their economic cooperation and diversify their trade and investment ties. Here are some of the key areas of cooperation between India and USA.

Defense cooperation:

India-US defence cooperation is based on “New Framework for India-US Defence Cooperation”, which was renewed for a period of ten years in 2015. In 2016, the defence relationship was designated as a Major Defence Partnership (MDP) to build a comprehensive, enduring and mutually beneficial defense partnership. On 30 July 2018, India was moved into the Tier-1 of the US Department of Commerce’s Strategic Trade Authorization license exception. The Defense Policy Group (DPG) headed by Defense Secretary and Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) provides a platform for a comprehensive review of defense dialogues/mechanisms. The defense procurement activities are monitored through the Defense Production and Procurement Group (DPPG).

Bilateral exercises include: Yudh Abhyas (Army); Vajra Prahar (Special Forces), a tri-services exercise– Tiger Triumph (inaugurated in 2019).

India joined the multilateral Combined Maritime Force (CMF) based in Bahrain, as an Associate Partner in April 2022. In November 2022, Australian Navy joined the U.S.-India-Japan MALABAR annual Naval Exercise. U.S. participated in India's multilateral Exercise Milan 2022.

Counter terrorism cooperation:

Cooperation in counter-terrorism is one of the pillars of the bilateral partnership featuring information exchange, capacity building, operational cooperation and regular dialogue through the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism. In 2017, both sides initiated a dialogue on domestic and international terrorist designations listing proposals. The JWG on CT and Designation Dialogue were held in Washington D.C.

Cyber Security cooperation:

The India-US Cyber Framework signed in September 2016, provides for expanding cooperation in cyber domain. India-U.S. Cyber Dialogue was held in Washington D.C. on 21-23 September 2022. India also participated in the U.S. led Counter Ransomware Initiative [CRI] meeting held in Washington D.C.

Trade and Economic Cooperation:

USA is the largest trading partner of India with respect to merchandise trade, with bilateral merchandise trade of US\$ 67.41 billion, accounting for 11.98% of India's total merchandise trade. As per U.S. Census data, India-US merchandise trade in calendar year 2021 (Jan-December) reached around \$113 billion. The bilateral hydrocarbons trade with USA started in 2017 amounted to US\$ 19 billion during 2021-22. US has become our 4th largest crude oil and 2nd largest LNG supplier. In FY 2020-21, India received the highest ever FDI amounting to US\$ 81.72 billion. USA became our second largest source of FDI during 2020-21 with inflows of US\$ 13.82 billion. US is one of the top 5 investment destinations for Indian FDI.

Diaspora and People to people ties:

About 4.2 million Indian Americans/Indian origin people reside in the US. Persons of Indian-origin (3.18 million] constitute the third largest Asian ethnic group in the US. There are many Indian American community organizations and professional organizations of Indian Americans. Indian Americans are one of the most successful communities and excel in diverse fields, including politics. The Indian diaspora has been a catalyst in cementing closer ties between India and the U.S. There are five persons of Indian origin in the U.S. Congress.

2.3 RUSSIA

India and Russia have been friends since before the Soviet Union existed. The kinship between the two countries has been founded on shared upsides of harmony, non-arrangement, and collaboration. India and Russia

have been friends ever since 1947. Russia helped India achieve its goal of economic self-sufficiency by investing in steel plants, mining, energy production, heavy machinery manufacturing, and mining. This strategic alliance, which has stood the test of time, has been supported by the people of both countries. In times of tension on India's borders, Russia has been India's closest ally. Russia supported India against the US and UK threat in the Bay of Bengal during the Indo-Pak war. Russia has also frequently backed India at the United Nations, its membership in the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG), and its claim to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. India's political instability limited foreign policy's involvement, as several governments had changed in a short period of time and there was no clear strategy to follow. Despite the fact that Russia and India have had a corridor for commercial and military trade, keeping the engagement alive until it was revived in the late 1990s.

After 1996, when both Russia and India realized that the West, particularly the United States, had failed to fulfil its promises to these two nations, relations between the two countries re-stabilized. India's hope for improved relations with Russia remained severely hampered by the China threat. Russia, on the other hand, abandoned its initial hesitation and inconsistent engagement with India. This was possible because the Russian leadership believed that openly banking on the West made Russia vulnerable and caused major social divisions. Relationships between the two countries are much stronger than they were in the past. In their political engagement, the Indian Prime Minister and the Russian President exude positive energy. In the strategic partnership between India and Russia, the highest institutionalized dialogue mechanism is the Annual Summit between the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation. Up until this point, 21 Annual Summits have occurred on the other hand in India and Russia. Through phone calls, the two leaders talk to each other on a regular basis. When Russia assisted in the evacuation of Indian students from Ukraine, relations showed their goodwill.

A major focus of both India and Russia's foreign policy is maintaining friendly ties that are based on continuity, trust, and mutual understanding. In both nations, there is agreement on how to keep the good relations between them. There has been an increase in awareness of the strategic nature of Indo-Russian relations. Regarding a number of international issues, India and Russia have similar perspectives. India have up to this point leaned toward Russia in Ukraine war, India went against the one-sided authorize against Russia and has taken extreme stand to upheld Russia over Ukraine war.

Défense and Vital organization:

India and Russia have a perplexing guard organization that traverses various spaces, including joint military activities, joint military preparation and instruction, joint military hardware improvement, and creation. Additionally, the region's stability and the fight against terrorism are shared strategic and security interests by both nations. The BrahMos

voyage rocket program, which is a joint effort between the two nations, is one of the main examples of the India-Russia security organization. The Indian military have effectively integrated the Russian-created rocket, which is one of the world's quickest and generally precise. Another delineation of the close by assurance ties between the two countries is the joint making of the Sukhoi Su-30MKI competitor plane, which has been in help with the Indian Flying corps since the last piece of the 1990s. Russia has likewise furnished India with a few extra bits of military equipment, including helicopters, tanks, and submarines.

The India-Russia defense partnership has faced difficulties as a result of India's recent efforts to reduce its reliance on Russian equipment and diversify its defense procurement. In any case, various new joint endeavours and ventures are in progress, showing the two countries' assurance to fortify their organization in the guard area.

In order to enhance their cooperation and future defense strategy, the two nations can collaborate in a few areas. India and Russia's possible future defense strategies include the following:

Joint Development and Research: In the research and development of new defense technologies like hypersonic missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, and advanced radar systems, Russia and India can continue to collaborate. Joint research and development efforts may assist both nations in achieving their defense goals more effectively and economically.

Counterterrorism: Russia and India can collaborate to share intelligence, expertise, and technology to combat terrorism, despite the fact that they both face similar challenges in this area. Both nations may be able to improve their capabilities in this area by participating in joint counterterrorism exercises and training programs.

Maritime Collaboration: The two nations can investigate more prominent participation in the sea area, including joint maritime activities, innovation sharing, and port visits. This kind of cooperation could assist Russia in expanding its influence in the Indian Ocean, which is a strategic location for India.

Cooperation in Space: India and Russia have a long history of working together in space, and this partnership has the potential to grow in the future. Joint endeavours in regions like satellite route, remote detecting, and space investigation could help the two nations.

Cybersecurity: Cybersecurity is emerging as a crucial area of concern as both countries become more reliant on technology. Russia and India can team up to foster hearty network safety approaches and foundation to shield their delicate data and framework from digital dangers.

Trade and economic cooperation India and Russia share a rich cultural and historical history. Protection has been India and Russia's primary area of involvement over the long term. India relies on Russia as a "reliable partner" to meet its defense and security needs. Defense sales have been

and will continue to be a significant consideration for India ever since the beginning of relations between India and Russia. India has invested a lot in Soviet and Russian equipment for all three services for decades. However, trade between the two nations is sparse, with the exception of energy. China's trade with India is \$66 billion, while India's trade with Russia is only \$11 billion. As a result, this is the ideal time for India and Russia to strengthen their economic ties and increase their bilateral trade. A major focus might be the establishment of distinct zones to encourage diamond trade. The fields of textiles, jewellery, fruits, pharmacy, dairy, and IT products might be the focus of future collaboration. The following are the four main areas of focus for each nation: start-ups, the digital economy, infrastructure, and energy

To broaden their trade and investment ties and deepen their economic cooperation, the two nations have taken a number of steps. The following are some of India and Russia's most important areas of economic cooperation:

Russia and India share a great deal of energy arrangements. Russia is strategically positioned to collaborate with India because the country imports energy on a net basis. India's energy security is subject to Russia. Petrochemicals are a new area of cooperation that has recently emerged. India expresses hopes for natural gas cooperation with Russia, which allows Indian businesses to operate in oil-rich regions. Petrochemicals and natural gas are brand-new fields of cooperation.

Trade:

India and Russia have set a goal of reaching \$30 billion in bilateral trade by 2025. The two nations have reduced non-tariff barriers, simplified visa procedures, established trade promotion offices, and taken other steps to make trade easier in order to reach this goal.

Infrastructure:

India and Russia are exploring joint investment opportunities in infrastructure, including railways, highways, and ports, as a growing area of economic cooperation. India is also interested in being a part of the Northern Sea Route's development, which is expected to become a major Arctic trade route.

Pharmaceuticals:

India and Russia have likewise been investigating open doors for collaboration in the drug area, with India being a significant provider of conventional medications to Russia. To make it easier for pharmaceutical products to be imported and exported, the two nations have signed a number of agreements.

Russia and India have been looking into ways to use the Indian rupee as their exchange currency to boost trade. There may be a number of advantages to using the Indian rupee as a trading currency over US dollars

or euros for trade between the two countries. The ability to reduce transaction costs is one of the primary advantages of conducting business with Russia in Indian rupees. Indian businesses that conduct business with Russia must currently exchange rupees for dollars or euros, and Russian businesses must then exchange dollars or euros for rubles in order to pay for Russian imports. Cash trade gambles and extra exchange expenses might result from this. However, if trade is conducted in Indian rupee, these costs can be reduced.

The India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC), co-chaired by EAM on the Indian side and Mr. Denis Manturov, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Industry & Trade, on the Russian side, is the primary government mechanism for enhancing trade and economic cooperation. The revised goals of increasing bilateral trade to \$30 billion and investment to \$50 billion by 2025 demonstrate that intensifying trade and economic relations is a priority for both leaders. The Department of Commerce reports that bilateral trade reached \$13.2 billion between FY 2021 and FY 2022. There were \$9.86 billion in Russian imports and \$3.26 billion in Indian exports. Between April and August 2022, bilateral trade reached an all-time high of \$18.23 billion, with India importing \$17.23 billion and India exporting \$992.73 million to Russia.

2.4 CHINA

Two of the world's most populous nations, India and China, have had long and complicated diplomatic relations. In 1947, India and 1949, China declared independence from British rule. China established a one-party communist system, whereas India chose democracy socialism. Both nations were founded on the principles of socialism. Relations between the two nations have occasionally been tense as a result of border disputes, including a brief war in 1962. India has pursued a foreign policy in recent times that aims to strike a balance between its relationships with China and the United States, which are increasingly seen as strategic rivals in the region. India has attempted to contain its strategic ambitions, particularly in the Indian Ocean region, while simultaneously attempting to establish strong economic ties with China.

India turned into the primary non-communist alliance country to lay out political relations with Individuals' Republic of China. In October 1954, Prime Minister Nehru visited China. The 1962 border conflict was a setback, but Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's historic 1988 visit marked the beginning of improved relations. During Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit in 1993, the signing of an Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control on the India-China Border Areas reflected the growing stability of bilateral ties. Our ties have gained substance and value as a result of the cumulative outcomes of numerous bilateral high-level visits. India and China signed the Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation during Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 2003 visit, and they also agreed to appoint Special Representatives (SRs) to investigate the

framework for a boundary settlement. The two parties established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity during Premier Wen Jiabao's visit in April 2005. Over the past ten years, bilateral relations between India and China have grown and changed. During the visit of President Xi Jinping to India in September 2014, the different sides reclassified the respective commitment as Closer Formative Organization. In addition, sixteen agreements were signed in a variety of fields, including sister-city arrangements, industrial parks, pharmaceuticals, space cooperation, commerce and trade, and railways. Additionally, an agreement was reached between the two parties to open the Nathu La route for the Kailash ManSarovar Yatra.

India's foreign policy towards China is based on several key principles. First, India believes in a peaceful and cooperative relationship with China, based on mutual respect and trust. Second, India seeks to enhance economic cooperation with China, including through bilateral trade and investment. Third, India seeks to contain China's strategic ambitions, particularly in the Indian Ocean region, where China has been building its naval presence. One of the key issues in India's relations with China is the border dispute. India and China share a long border, much of which is disputed. The two countries have had several rounds of talks to try and resolve the dispute, but little progress has been made. In 2020, tensions escalated along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), with clashes between Indian and Chinese troops resulting in fatalities on both sides. The situation remains tense, with both countries deploying additional troops and equipment along the border.

India's reaction to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has likewise been a wellspring of strain. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a huge project to build roads, railways, and ports that will connect China to other Asian, European, and African nations. India has rejected the BRI because of concerns about China's strategic intentions and the project's lack of transparency. China's growing influence in South Asia, particularly in Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh, has also been criticized by India. India views China's activities in the region as an attempt to encircle India and undermine its strategic interests. India has sought to counter China's influence through its own initiatives, such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

India has also been strengthening its strategic ties to the United States and other Indo-Pacific nations like Japan and Australia in recent years. China has interpreted this as an effort to limit its strategic ambitions in the area. India has signed a number of defense agreements aimed at enhancing military cooperation and has participated in a number of joint military exercises with these nations. India and China also have a High-Level Dialogue Mechanism on Counter Terrorism and Security, led by Chairman (JIC) on the Indian side and the Secretary General of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Chinese Communist Party on the Chinese side. The system initially met in Beijing in September 2016. Mr. Zhao Kezhi, the minister of public security, also went to India in October

2018 and, along with Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, co-chaired the first high-level meeting between China and India on bilateral security cooperation. An MOU on cooperation in security and law enforcement was also signed.

In conclusion, India's foreign policy towards China is based on a mix of cooperation, containment, and balancing. India seeks to enhance economic ties with China while also seeking to contain its strategic ambitions, particularly in the Indian Ocean region. The border dispute remains a key issue in the relationship, and tensions have escalated in recent years. India's growing ties with the United States and other countries in the Indo-Pacific region have also been viewed by China as a challenge to its strategic ambitions. As such, India's relationship with China is likely to remain complex and nuanced in the years to come.

2.5 SUMMARY

India is emerging as a major power of a future multipolar world. India have become an important state in terms of Strong military power, Stable economy, elite in technology, good human resource and naturally having a strategic geographical positioning in Asia. Hence, India will have to maintain the diplomatic and strategic relations with all the major powers in the world.

The countries like USA, RUSSIA and China are major power in multipolar world. India have strategically achieved the place on table with these major powers. The bilateral relations between India and USA have developed into a “global strategic partnership”, putting emphasis on values of shared democracy, and increasing convergence of interests on bilateral, regional and global issues.

India and Russia's foreign policy is maintaining friendly ties that are based on continuity, trust, and mutual understanding. In both nations, there is agreement on how to keep the good relations between them. There has been an increase in awareness of the strategic nature of Indo-Russian relations.

Foreign policy in reference to China so far has imbalanced due to ideological differences and border issues. China has aggressive policy in south Asia, India looks it as challenge and security threat. But so far both the nations have realized that, India and China, both can compliment each other if things work out in Peace.

2.6 QUESTIONS

1. Describe the India's relation with major power in world
2. Discuss the India- USA Bilateral Ties in terms of Strategic partnership
3. Write the salient feature of Bilateral relations between India and Russia.

4. Write about India's relation with China in view of bilateral relations
5. Which aspects in India's foreign Policy are important to sustain the bilateral relations.

SUGGESTED READING

- India as an emerging major power – Foreign Policy thrust area: P.M Kamath
- Report and briefing at www.mea.gov.in
- Reporting of Embassy of India in Russia, China and America

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INDIA AND HER NEIGHBOURS

Unit Structure

- 3.0 Objectives
- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 India and SAARC
- 3.3 Pakistan and Bangladesh
- 3.4 Summary
- 3.5 Questions

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- Understand the initiatives taken by India under the framework of SAARC
- Understand the challenges India faces in its relations with SAARC countries
- Understand the contours of India's relationship with Pakistan and Bangladesh

3.1 INTRODUCTION

India has a land frontier of 15,106.7 km. The total length of the coastline of India is 7,516.6 km. India shares its border with seven countries namely Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

South Asian Association (SAARC) for regional cooperation is a regional intergovernmental organization of the South Asian countries. SAARC is headquartered in Kathmandu, Nepal. The countries viz., India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka together constitute SAARC. The SAARC countries are densely populated countries, including India which is the world's most populous country now, bypassing China. SAARC around twenty; percent of the population of the world. SAARC countries contribute about six percent to world economic output. SAARC was founded in Dhaka on 8 December 1985. Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal. The organization promotes economic development and regional integration. India is a founding member of SAARC and a predominant power in the region's maintains permanent delegations to United Nations and with the EU.

The 8 founding members of SAARC are:

India- Afghanistan- Bangladesh- Bhutan- Nepal- Pakistan- Sri Lanka- The Maldives

There are currently nine Observers of SAARC, namely:

Australia- China- EU- Japan- Mauritius- Iran- Republic of Korea- Myanmar- The United States

Saarc Charter:

SAARC Charter emphasizes on mutually beneficial relations with respect for the five principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in internal matters of the other Member States and mutual benefit. It supports regional cooperation. SAARC Summits are held annually and the country hosting the Summit holds the Chair of the Association. Decisions are made on an unanimity basis. To avoid any dispute bilateral and contentious matter are excluded from SAARC.

The foundation of such a regional integration mechanism among South Asian Countries was discussed in the Asian Relations Conference held in New Delhi in April 1947. Subsequently it was developed at the Baguio Conference in the Philippines in May 1950; and the Colombo Powers Conference held in Sri Lanka in April 1954.

Initially in 1970s, the seven inner South Asian nations that included Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, agreed upon the creation of a trade block and to provide a platform for the people of South Asia to work together in a spirit of friendship, trust, and understanding. The idea of SAARC was given by President Ziaur Rahman who later addressed official letters to the leaders of the countries of South Asia, presenting his vision for the future of the region and compelling arguments for co-operation.

During his visit to India in December 1977, Rahman discussed the issue of regional cooperation with the Indian Prime Minister, Morarji Desai.

In 1983, at the international conference held in Dhaka by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Declaration on South Asian Association Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was adopted. Five agreed areas of cooperation were identified, namely, Agriculture; Rural Development; Telecommunications; Meteorology; and Health and Population Activities. Two years after this, SAARC was officially launched.

There are some Regional Centers established in the Member countries of SAARC to promote regional co-operation which are managed by Governing Boards. This Governing body is constituted by the following:

- All the Member States,
- SAARC Secretary-General and
- the Ministry of Foreign/External Affairs of the Host Government.

The member countries of SAARC have collectively constituted four specialized bodies of SAARC. The following are the specialized bodies of SAARC-

SAARC Arbitration Council: Pakistan: This is an intergovernmental body based in Pakistan to perform legal work within the region to provide a fair settlement of industrial trade, commercial banking, or any other dispute.

SAARC development fund: Bhutan: It is a Bhutan-based funding body whose primary purpose is to fund collaborations in social sectors like development and poverty reduction.

South Asian University: India: The South Asian University is situated in India, where the South Asian University awards degrees and certificates.

South Asian Regional Standard Organisation: Dhaka: The South Asian regional standards organization is based in Dhaka. It was established to enhance and achieve cooperation and coordination among the member countries to develop harmony within the region to facilitate inter-regional trade and access to the global market.

3.2 INDIA AND SAARC

India is one of the founding members of SAARC. India continues to support regional development initiatives under the framework of SAARC in diverse areas. Under India's leadership, the South Asian Free Trade Area was launched in 2006. India maintains good relations with most of the members of SAARC. It is a continuation of India's neighbourhood First policy and the Gujral doctrine of non-reciprocity in cooperation with neighbours. So far India has hosted three SAARC Summits. The second summit was held in November 17–18 in Bangalore, India in 1986. The 8th summit was hosted by New Delhi, in May 1995. The fourteenth summit of SAARC was held in New Delhi, India on 3rd-4 April 2007, and was attended by the presidents of Afghanistan, the Maldives and Sri Lanka and the prime ministers Bhutan, INDIA, Nepal and Pakistan and the chief adviser of the government of Bangladesh. The summit stressed on improving intra-regional connectivity.

- Following the 2016 Uri terror attack, India cancelled its participation in the 19th SAARC summit, alleging Pakistan's involvement in the terror attack.
- In 2020, during the COVID-19 crisis, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened a video conference of SAARC leaders. They underscored the need for cooperation on a regional basis for fighting the pandemic. India also distributed COVID Vaccines and essential supplies to many SAARC countries.
- In Afghanistan, India has shifted to work on small development projects (SDPs) rather than the ambitious highways, dams and big building projects that were started in 2008-09.

- In Bangladesh, the main grant for land acquisition for the Akhaura-Agartala rail “last link” project has now been completed.
- In Bhutan, which has always received the largest share of Indian assistance, the assistance required for major hydroelectric power plants like Punatsangchu 1 and 2 and Mangdechu has been disbursed 75-90% while Indian assistance to Bhutan’s 11th five-year plan (2013-2017) has been handed over nearly fully.

In Sri Lanka, the decline was explained by delays in land acquisition for 15,000 homes to be built by India in the plantation areas, though the work on 45,000 homes in the north and east of the island has been completed. India is still completing three main projects in Maldives: a police academy, a coastal radar project, and the refit of MNDF ship Huravee. An offer to build a new Defence Ministry building is pending, which explains why the Maldives alone is the outlier to an otherwise declining trend in neighbourhood aid.

India did not take part in SAARC summit in Islamabad in 2019, due to continuous cross border terrorism. Nonetheless, India has taken initiatives to facilitate regional cooperation through SAARC. A SAARC Fund to combat COVID-19 disease was established, with India contributing an amount of \$10 million.

At the same time, India has been trying to develop alternate mechanisms of cooperation. With its neighbors outside of SAARC framework for e.g, Bilateral agreements with Afghanistan and BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal) initiative. Unfortunately, SAARC has not succeeded as its counterparts like Asean in regional development and due to India-Pakistan rivalry.

Challenges:

What are the Challenges regarding Regional Cooperation in South Asia?

Low Inter-Regional Trade:

South Asia’s intra-regional trade is the lowest globally, constituting only 5% of the region’s total trade. The current economic integration is just one-third of its potential with an annual estimated gap of 23 billion dollars.

India’s sheer size and economy creates suspicion in the eyes of its neighbours and for that they seek external balancing with the help of bigger powers especially China. China’s wolf warrior diplomacy and expansionary intentions often results in interference with India’s smaller neighboring poor countries. This creates impediment in regional integration. Recent Chinese actions and policies in South Asia as well as its maritime neighbours, including Indian Ocean island nations, have made it inevitable for India to take its neighbours very seriously.

In this the case of Pakistan to a great extent and Bangladesh to some extent can be studied as an example of Chinese interference in the region and debt traps.

3.3 PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH

India and Pakistan share a complex relationship since India's independence and creation of Pakistan. The two countries have had bitter relations.

Background:

India's partition was one of the greatest human misery with large scale migrations across the region accompanied with communal riots and massacres. It uprooted and killed millions of people. State of Pakistan was created from India. Pakistan was declared as an Islamic republic populated mostly by Muslim population and a meagre minority population of other faiths. Memories of this partition and the riots left permanent imprint on the relations between these two countries. Partition was followed by a territorial dispute between these two countries over Kashmir.

The dispute started after the Maharaja Jai Singh of Kashmir made a plea to India to aid him against Pakistani insurgents. After India's intervention, Kashmir was seceded to India. This led to the First Indo-Pakistani War, that was fought between the India and the Pakistan

A ceasefire agreement was finalized and a line of control (LOC) was created leaving India with around two-thirds of Kashmir, while Pakistan succeeded in obtaining control over a third of Kashmir region. India and Pakistan have fought three big wars, in 1947-48, next in 1965, again in 1971 also known as the Bangladesh liberation war. Again, a low intensity war was fought in Kargil in 1999.

Initiatives have been taken through diplomatic initiatives as well as Track II diplomacy to normalize relations, but Pakistan's harboring of terrorist outfits and support to insurgents in Kashmir has disrupted the peace process. Many pan-Islamic terrorist groups like the Lashkar-e-Taibah (LeT), continued to be active in Jammu & Kashmir, are headquartered in Pakistan and Pakistan Administered Jammu & Kashmir.

Major areas of concern are:

1. Cross Border terrorism by Pakistan in Kashmir
2. Sharing of river water
3. Siachen issue

Both the countries are nuclear armed that's make the situation more critical.

- An armed attack, on the Indian parliament was carried on 13 December 2001 in New Delhi leaving fourteen people dead. LeT and JeM were held responsible for the attacks.

- Another major terrorist attack was in November 2008, wherein the world witnessed, open firing by armed gnm on civilians at several sites in Mumbai, India.
- In January 2016, also JeM terrorists disguised as soldiers, carry out a deadly attack on Pathankot airbase in India.
- In September 2016, JeM terrorists storm an army base in Uri, in J& K, and kill many soldiers.
- India, in September 2016, in its first direct military response to the attack in Uri, conducted 'surgical strikes' on terror camps across the LoC in Pakistan.
- Terrorists targeted Hindu pilgrims in 2017, on their way back from Amarnath temple in Jammu & Kashmir.

Some of the recent peace initiatives are:

- Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's historic bus journey to Lahore in 1999, (newly opened Delhi–Lahore Bus service) to meet Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The Lahore Declaration, was signed that was the first major agreement after the 1972 Shimla Agreement.
- Commitment to the Shimla Agreement was reiterated. Both sides agreed to initiate Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) for better bilateral relations.
- Indian PM Narendra Modi held talks with Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in 2014 in New Delhi to improve bilateral relations.
- PM Narendra Modi made a surprise visit to Lahore in 2015, to attend PM Nawaz Sharif's birthday and his granddaughter's wedding.
- In November 2021, the Kartarpur Religious Corridor, which connects Dera Baba Nanak, the Indian side of Panjab, with Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Pakistan, was reopened. As a result, there have been numerous instances of separated families, from India and Pakistan, re-uniting for the first time after Partition at Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur (the resting place of the founder of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak) in recent months
- Abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and withdrawing of Kashmir's special constitutional status is another area of concern for Pakistan. In the years since, India has implemented its desired political and administrative changes in Kashmir, while consistently denying Pakistan any room to re-direct international focus on the issue.
- Pakistan's continuous propaganda against India on Kashmir issue at various UN platforms is another area of concern for India.
- Pakistan's overtures to include a third party in the resolution of Indus Water treaty over India's construction of dams in Kishanganga and Ratle Hydro Electric projects, has been criticised by India

The Composite Dialogue between India and Pakistan addressed all outstanding issues.

- In 2011, after a meeting between the Foreign Ministers of both the countries, the bilateral ties were resumed on issues including:
- Counter-terrorism & Humanitarian issues
- Economic issues at Commerce
- Tulbul Navigation Project at Water Resources Secretary-level
- Siachen issue
- Peace & Security
- Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)

Promotion of Friendly Exchanges at the level of the Foreign Secretaries has been taking place. Cross LoC travel was started in 2005 and trade across J&K was initiated in 2009. India and Pakistan signed a visa agreement in 2012 leading to liberalization of bilateral visa regimes between the two countries

In the recent years India has maintained a stern posture of not entering in to dialogue with Pakistan, until Pakistan stops all terrorist activities in Kashmir. India has successfully dehyphenated itself from Pakistan and has found creative ways and mechanisms to side-step or corner Pakistan in the international community. India has consistently stressed the need for Pakistan to take credible measures to stop cross border terrorism

Relation can be improved with Pakistan through the restoration of trade and official ties, and proceed toward larger dispute resolution while the present imbalance in geopolitical agencies persists. India must also understand that not Pakistan, but China is a bigger threat for India. On a positive note India -Pakistan trade relations are improving.

Pakistan's adventurism has often been supported by external powers. As a Cold War ally of U.S., it had been getting material support and funding for counter terror initiatives. When America's priority was South Asia in its war against Al Qaeda, Pakistan (which shares border with Afghanistan) became a major partner. It also became a NON-NATO ally of US in its War on terror only to be rejected later, when America realized that those funds were being utilized for harboring and training terrorists. Funding and economic reinforcements were also withdrawn by America to Pakistan's disappointment

But Pakistan has found an all-weather friend in China and is getting military, financial and moral support from China. China is building multi billion dollars CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) project through Pakistan. China-Pakistan's deep economic and military ties is emboldening Pakistan against India. India thus fears a two-front war in future that could be waged by these two adversaries.

Bangladesh:

Three sides of Bangladesh's land border are shared with India, and one side runs along the Bay of Bengal. India and Bangladesh share 4096.7 km. of border, which is the longest land boundary that India shares with any of its neighbours. India was the first country to recognize Bangladesh as a separate and independent state and established diplomatic relations with the country immediately after its independence in December 1971 as a friendly South Asian neighbour. Bangladesh occupies a key place in India's Neighbourhood First policy. India's links with Bangladesh are civilizational, cultural, social and economic. However, there still remain major issues such as river water disputes (Teesta River water sharing), aiding illegal immigrants, and drug trades remain between India and Bangladesh, that must be addressed.

- **The geographical proximity** of India to Bangladesh has made it one of its biggest trading partners. Bangladesh is India's 6th largest trade partner.
- **India has provided duty free quota** free access to Bangladesh on all tariff lines except tobacco and alcohol under South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) since 2011.
- **6 Border Haats (4 in Meghalaya and 2 in Tripura)**, have been approved by the Indian and Bangladesh governments.
- **Sharing of River Waters:** India and Bangladesh share 54 common rivers. The Ganga Waters Treaty signed in 1996 for sharing of waters of river Ganga during lean season (January 1-May 31).
- **Agartala-Akhaura Rail-Link** will be the first rail route between Northeast India and Bangladesh.
- **Energy sector cooperation** between India and Bangladesh has also seen considerable progress in the last few years.
- **The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline Project**, signed in 2018, will connect Siliguri in West Bengal in India and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh.
- **India and Bangladesh** have also signed the Framework of Understanding (FOU) on Cooperation in the Hydrocarbon Sector.
- **Tourism:** According to the Ministry of Tourism, Bangladesh accounted for the largest share of foreign tourist arrivals in India in 2020, including tens of thousands of people who come to the country for medical treatment.
- **Apart from South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** India and Bangladesh are also members of other regional initiatives like Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical

Challenges:

Sharing of Teesta River Water Dispute: Teesta river flows from India to the Bay of Bengal through Bangladesh. Almost half a dozen districts in West Bengal are dependent on this river. It is also a major source of irrigation to the paddy growing greater Rangpur region of Bangladesh but Bangladesh complains that it does not get enough water. Meanwhile, no treaty has been signed yet to resolve the Teesta water-sharing dispute between the two nations.

- **Illegal Migration:** The influx of refugees from Bangladesh, continues. The Rohingya refugees originally from Myanmar started infiltrating into India through Bangladesh.
- **Also, the National Register of Citizens (NRC):** that is expected to deter future migrants from Bangladesh from entering India illegally has also triggered a major concern in Bangladesh.
- **Drug Smuggling & Trafficking:** There have been many incidences of cross border drug smuggling & trafficking. Humans (especially children & women) are trafficked & various animal & bird species are poached through these borders.
- **Terrorism:** The borders are susceptible to terrorist infiltration. A number of outfits are trying to spread their tentacles across India, such as Jamaat-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).
- **Growing Chinese Influence in Bangladesh:** At present, Bangladesh is an active partner in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) (India is not a part of BRI). Also, Bangladesh imports Chinese military equipment, including submarines, in the defense sector that is major concern for India's National Security.

3.4 SUMMARY

The engagement between the two could at least be sustainable to avoid nuclear conflict in South Asia. People to people interaction and de-hyphenation of Kashmir issue could be an important initiative. Efforts have already started with India avoiding Kashmir issue in bilateral relations. Financially unstable Pakistan has also been contemplating on looking beyond Kashmir issue and focusing on its development.

India's relation with Bangladesh is much better after resolving of the border dispute. But yet there are many unresolved issues.

This can be achieved by:

Better Connectivity:

There is a need to enhance connectivity in the region through strengthening cooperation in coastal connectivity, road, rail and inland waterways.

Energy Security:

As the global energy crisis continues to rise, it is imperative that India and Bangladesh cooperate in making use of clean and green energy in order to make South Asia Energy self-sufficient.

India Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline:

This project is being undertaken through ground and once completed will help in the movement of high-speed diesel to Northern Bangladesh from India.

Bangladesh has acknowledged Indian Oil Corporation Limited as a registered government to government supply of refined petroleum products.

Shifting Focus Towards Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):

Bangladesh will graduate from a Less Developed Country (LDC) to a developing country by 2026 and will no longer be entitled to trade and other benefits that are accorded to LDCs under international and regional trading agreements.

Through the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), Bangladesh will be able to manage this transition and preserve its trade privileges. It will also strengthen economic ties between India and Bangladesh.

Countering China's Influence:

Assisting Bangladesh with Nuclear technology, Artificial intelligence, Modern farming techniques, and flood data exchange will further strengthen India's relationship with Bangladesh and help India in countering China's influence to a greater extent.

Tackling the Refugee Crisis:

India and Bangladesh can take the lead in encouraging the member states of South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to frame a declaration pertaining to refugees, laying down a specific procedure for determining status of refugee and economic migrants.

Revival of SAARC for economic cooperation should be a good strategy not only to lessen Indo-Pak conflict but also for South Asia regional economic integration. The role of civil society could also be crucial here

in building ties between both countries. India's strained relations with its neighbours, only helps China's realpolitik to make inroads in to South Asia.

3.5 QUESTIONS

Note i: Use the Space given below for your answer

1. Examine India's leadership under SAARC's regional cooperative mechanism in South Asia. Discuss the future prospects of peace between India and Pakistan?

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INDIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Unit Structure

- 4.0 Objectives
- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 India's Role in United Nations
- 4.3 India and ASEAN
- 4.4 Summary
- 4.5 Exercise

4.0 OBJECTIVES

- Understand the achievements of India under the framework of UN
- Understand the challenges India faces in United Nations
- Understand the contours of India's partnership with ASEAN Block

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The objectives of United Nations are to foster international cooperation supported by international peace and security, promotion of human rights and facilitating social and economic development.

India has been an actively participating in UN specialized agencies and has also occupied the non-permanent seat of UNSC for eight terms. India is a founding member of the UN. It participates in all of its specialized agencies and organizations. India actively participated in the UN's struggle against colonialism and apartheid. Over the years it has significantly improved its stature as an important and responsible member of UN.

Building good relation with ASEAN is crucial for India's 'Look East and 'Act East Policy'. Also, ASEAN is the 3rd largest market in the world. As such, it has acquired an important place in India's strategic calculus. The year 2023, marks the completion of thirty years of ASEAN-India relations, celebrated as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year.

4.2 INDIA'S ROLE IN THE UNITED NATIONS

India signed the Declaration by United Nations at Washington, D.C. on 1 January 1942. It also participated in the UN Conference on International Organization at San Francisco from 25 April to 26 June 1945. As a rule only, sovereign states can become UN members. India signed the Declaration by United Nations on 1 January 1942. After gaining independence Indian delegation headed by Sir Arcot Ramaswamy

Mudaliar, signed the UN Charter during the memorable United Nations Conference held in San Francisco, United States on June 26th, 1945.

India 'S Participation in United Nations Activities:

- The United Nations system consisting of 26 organizations that have the provided services in India.
- India has contributed troops to United Nations peacekeeping efforts in Korea, Egypt and the Congo in its earlier years and in Somalia, Angola, Haiti, Liberia, Lebanon and Rwanda in recent years, and more recently in the South Sudan conflict.
- India solidified its position within the UN system while leading groups like Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77. It became a leader of the developing countries struggling for the creation of a more equal international order, politically socially and economically.
- India has been an avid supporter of reforms in UN. It has worked for reforms like decolonization and ending apartheid. It has been vocal on issues of national and global importance.
- India is critical in determining the success of the SDGs, globally. NITI Aayog, the Government of India's premier think tank, has been working with perseverance for the realization of SGD goals with appropriate policies and amendments required. In addition, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has been leading discussions for developing national indicators for the SDGs. The UN Country Team in India coordinates and aligns with the NITI Aayog,
- On India's initiative, June 21 was declared as the International Day of Yoga by the UNGA in 2014. India's Permanent Representative Asoke Mukherji introduced the draft resolution in UNGA. 175 countries co-sponsored the resolution. This had the highest number of co-sponsors ever for any UNGA Resolution.
- India was also amongst the most outspoken critics of apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa and the first country to raise the issue in the UN.
- India played an instrumental role in the formation of a Sub-Committee against Apartheid. In fact, India was among the earliest signatories of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination in 1965.
- Being the founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77, India cemented its position within the UN system as a leading advocate of the concerns and aspirations of developing countries and the creation of a more equitable international economic and political order.

- India is working with the UN to help the country achieve its aspirations to end poverty and inequality and to promote sustainable development in line with the globally agreed SDGs. The UN also supports India, as the world's largest democracy, in the country's ambitious commitments to rapid change and development priorities through its various specialized agencies.
- India was one of 48 countries to vote in favor of the UDHR declaration on 10th December 1948.
- Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit be elected as first woman president of the UNGA.
- On India's insistence, UN General Assembly declares 2 October, Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, as the International Day of Non-Violence.
- The Government, in partnership with UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), has contributed to the almost universal awareness of the polio vaccination.
- India has taken part in 43 Peacekeeping missions and it is amongst the third largest troop contributor with personnel deployed in UN Peacekeeping Missions.
- India last tenure in UNSC (2020-2022) has prioritized maritime security, UN peacekeeping, protecting peacekeepers, and restricting terrorism. India has also proposed its candidature for its next tenure in UNSC in 2028-29.
- India has been elected to UN Statistical commission in April 2023, for 4-year term garnering 46 out of 53 votes in a secret ballot.

India And G20:

- India assumed the Presidency of G20, and this makes India a global player to display its leadership to the world. The G20 Summit is held annually, under the leadership of a rotating Presidency.
- The G20 deals with issues concerning to the global economy, such as international financial stability or sustainable development.
- The G20 was established in 1999 in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis. It is a forum for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to find global solutions to economic and financial issues.
- The G20 was upgraded to the level of Heads of State/Government in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis of 2007, and, in 2009, was designated the "premier forum for international economic cooperation
- The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia,

Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom and United States) and the European Union. The G20 members represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population

- India is working with G20 nations to establish a globally coordinated policy on many issues for e.g., on crypto assets. With its G20 Presidency, the country is taking advantage of the opportunity to priorities different issues, including crypto assets, for international collaboration.

G-77:

The motive of the G-77 grouping is to ensure that the developing world's collective interests are safeguarded along with the enhancements of its negotiation capabilities in the wider United Nations system and other international forums.

The G-77 (Group of 77) was established on June 15, 1964, by 77 developing nations, at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva. The Group of 77 is financed through contributions by the Member States.

G-77 addresses the problem of the Global south, the economic and social hardships and the problems they face. G-77 provides a common platform to third world countries. It addresses issues like discriminatory norms of international institutions like WTO norms which are discriminatory towards developing countries

India has headed the G77 more than once since the Group started in 1964. It has actively supported the agenda of G 77.

Groups like G-20 and G-77 foster south south cooperation and India is playing an active role in these institutions. India as an emergent large economy has been advocating economic equality and multilateralism climate change issues and counter-terrorism

These groups under UN framework, together strive to end poverty, inequality and underdevelopment of third world countries.

However, some experts believe, India's role is changing with less interest in collective forums like G 77 and more in Groups like G20. India wants to redefine its position as a third world country to an emerging global power.

Challenges For India in United Nations:

- India has been fighting for permanent membership to the UNSC. India's quest is based on its wide contribution to UN activities, especially the maintenance of international security.

- India has emphasized that United Nations can continue to be relevant if it mirrors the contemporary global realities. India has been actively working with other countries to garner support for UNSC membership.
- India is a member of **G4**, group of nations who back each other in seeking a permanent seat on the Security Council and advocate in favour of the reformation of the UNSC. India is also part of the G-77.
- UN's non-proliferation agenda forced India to view some units of the organization with distaste for imposing discriminatory regimes instead of promoting universal disarmament. India did not sign the discriminatory NPT and had to face a lot of criticism and pressure. India did not sign the NPT it was considered as a flawed treaty and it did not recognize the need for universal, non-discriminatory verification and treatment.
- Pakistan's continuous raking up of the Kashmir issue in UN platforms is another irritant for India. India has always denied any third-party involvement on Kashmir.

4.4 INDIA AND ASEAN

ASEAN, is a group of ten nations in South-east Asia. It includes Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Brunei, the Philippines, Singapore, Cambodia, Malaysia and Myanmar.

India started engaging ASEAN since 1992 after it launched its Look East policy and was given status of a sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN.

Timeline:

- In 1992, India became ASEAN's sectoral dialogue partner
- In 1995, India became full dialogue partner of ASEAN
- 1996, India became a member of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), a key forum for security dialogue in Asia which provides a setting in which members can discuss current regional security issues and develop cooperative measures to enhance peace and security in the region.
- In 2002, India and ASEAN begin to hold annual summit level meetings.
- In 2009, India- ASEAN Free trade Agreement in Goods was concluded.
- In 2012, India – ASEAN Strategic Partnership was concluded

- In 2014, India – ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in Services and Investment was concluded to enhance movement of manpower and investments between India and ASEAN.
- At the 20th Commemorative Summit held in New Delhi in 2012, India-ASEAN relations were elevated to a strategic partnership.
- In 2014, India revamped the Look East policy as the Act East policy to add strategic focus to engagements with ASEAN.
- In 2018, India invited the leaders of all the 10 ASEAN member countries, as chief guests for the Republic Day.
- India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore in 2018 which outlined envisioned Indo-Pacific. ASEAN was given a crucial role in this.

Areas of Cooperation:

The engagement, primarily political and economic, acquired a strategic dimension. India and the countries of South Asia share many threats and challenges, especially in the areas of non-conventional security. India and Southeast Asian nations have been strengthening their defense and security relationship both at bilateral and multilateral levels. Defense cooperation with ASEAN members is geared toward training fighter jet pilots and submarine crews in Vietnam, Malaysia, and Thailand, maintaining fighter jets in Indonesia, and exporting BrahMos supersonic missiles to the Philippines.

- ASEAN is India's fourth largest trading partner. India signed an FTA (Free Trade Agreement) in goods in 2009. Subsequently an FTA in services and investments was signed in 2014 with ASEAN.
- ASEAN and India have upgraded relations to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- Peace and Security: The two sides are committed to preserving and promoting peace and stability including maritime safety.
- Financial Assistance: India provides financial assistance to the ASEAN nations through various mechanisms like ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund and ASEAN-India Green Fund.
- For Connectivity, India has been constructing several connectivity projects like India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral (IMT) Highway and the Kaladan Multimodal Project
- Apart from this India and ASEAN have partnership in many areas like culture, social, educational cooperation etc.

19th Asean India Summit April 2023 (India Times, April 2023):

- India and Asean reiterated commitment to maritime cooperation, including maritime security, countering piracy, and humanitarian

assistance and disaster management. They agreed to work on Asean Outlook on the Indo-Pacific partnership, cooperation in cybersecurity, digital economy and fintech.

- They agreed to increase cooperation in sustainable development with the focus on new and emerging technologies for renewable energy, smart agriculture, healthcare and space.
- Promotion of the revival of tourism and enhance activities involving youth, and also work together on regional and international issues of common concern to promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region.
- Prioritizing speedy completion of the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway and its eastward extension to Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam the two sides would work on the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and India's connectivity initiatives under its Act East policy
- India declared an additional outlay of \$5 million for the Asean-India Science and Technology Fund on emerging areas of public health and renewable energy.

Irritants:

- It is often seen that countering China remains India's prime objective in strategic projection, particularly in Southeast Asia. But India fails to provide a viable alternative. As a result, China continues to dominate the economic and strategic landscape in Southeast Asia.
- China still remains ASEAN's largest trading partner since 2009. ASEAN's total trade with China in for the period January to April 2022 amounted to \$274.50 billion, while India's total trade with ASEAN from April 2021 to March 2022 was \$78.90 billion.
- China's expansionary motives in the South China Sea may be a concern for some ASEAN members, but divisions within the grouping are a major issue. ASEAN member countries do not take a stand due their own internal conflicts for e.g., in the case of Myanmar, they have failed to take a united stand.
- Major power rivalry in the Indo-Pacific region (involving China and other major powers) is disturbing the stability on which rested the regional growth and prosperity.
- The Russia-Ukraine have aggravated these rivalries and made this region prone to instability.

4.5 SUMMARY

India has played an important role in the United Nations. Despite of that, India has yet not been given permanent membership, of the high table which is UNSC and hence is sidelined in important strategic decisions.

Nonetheless, the future prospects of India-UN relations are bright. India would continue to maintain a strong and independent stand in United Nations. A recent example is India's abstention in UNSC over issues related to Russian-Ukraine war. Also, India strongly condemns any involvement of UN and interference of UN members on Kashmir issue.

India has been working closely with UN specialized bodies like World Bank and receiving assistance in developmental activities. India has made significant contribution in UN activities like the UN peacekeeping missions.

India strongly supports UN SDG goals, multilateralism and criticism of all form of terrorism. Strongly committed to democracy and multilateralism, India's G20 Presidency is a historic moment in her history as it seeks to play an instrumental role by finding realistic global solutions on international issues. The International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023, proposed and sponsored by the Government of India, was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), as a mark of India's successful diplomacy.

India's relation with -ASEAN is bound to grow by leaps and bounds in future due to common interest areas. Maritime security of the Indo-Pacific region is inevitable for India's interests as well as those of ASEAN. They must focus to ensure maximum utilization of resources without endangering the marine resources. They need to work together to harness the potential of the ocean in a sustainable manner. India-ASEAN relations are headed for a bright and fruitful future.

4.6 QUESTIONS

Note i: Use the Space given below for your answer

1. Critically analyze the achievements of India's 'Act East' Policy with specific reference to ASEAN. Discuss India's contribution in the realization of United Nation goals.

REFERENCES

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-asean-elevate-ties-to-comprehensive-strategic-partnership-101668279031866.html>
